

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 16 being independent.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and her supervisor for their time and consideration given during the in-person interview with Applicant's representative conducted on August 12, 2003. During the interview, proposed amendments to claims 1, 7 and 16 were discussed, and it was agreed that the proposed amendments would overcome the prior art rejections raised in the Office Action of April 23, 2003. Claims 1, 7 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the additional limitations of the proposed amendments and should, therefore, be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, and further recite additional features of the invention not shown or suggested by the prior art. Claims 8-15 depend from claim 7, and further recite additional features of the invention not shown or suggested by the prior art. Claims 17-26 depend from claim 16 and recite additional features of the invention not shown or suggested by the prior art. Thus, dependent claims 2-6, 8-15, and 17-26 should also be in condition for allowance.

In response to objections raised in the Office Action and in accordance with proposed amendments suggested therein, claims 6, 12, 19 and 24 have also been non-substantively amended. Non-substantive amendments to the specification and drawings as proposed by the Office Action have also been made, and formal drawings in accordance therewith are submitted herewith.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the drawings, specification and claims are now in proper form, and that all of the claims define patentability over the prior art. Accordingly, issuance

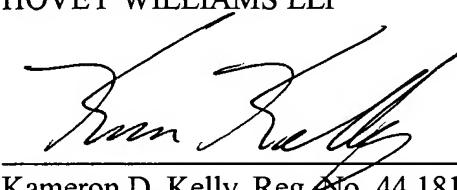
of the Notice of Allowance is courteously requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

A one (1) month Petition for Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment, along with a check in the amount of \$55.00 for the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By:



Kameron D. Kelly, Reg. No. 44,181
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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